

## New Heliport Fire Station and Control Tower complete

Chief Campbell, the Fire Chief for the Fort Meyer Fire Department, has been looking forward to moving into the new Heliport Fire Station and Control Tower that was completed late in January 2001. "Everybody within the department is very excited about the upgrade in the facility," said Campbell.

The new Heliport Fire Station and Control Tower combines the fire station and control tower functions into a single modern facility. The old fire station was demolished in mid September. "In the old station, the firefighters did not have living quarters separate from the truck bay and in the winter it would get extremely cold inside every time we had to take the truck out," said Campbell. "It would then take hours to reheat the room."

The construction of the new 2,400-square-foot building progressed rapidly requiring only five months to complete the entire project. William Holley, the project's manager for the Pentagon Renovation Program, explained the improvements included in the larger facility. "The new building houses the new aircraft rescue fire fighting vehicle, separate living quarters for the fire fighters, and a new communications room," said Holley. The facility also includes restrooms that are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. In addition, the building has a VIP lounge, modern telecommunications, and new heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems. The existing helipad lighting system has also been replaced.

"The new VIP waiting area is a great improvement over what we had in the old facility," said Staff Sergeant Yarbrow, an air traffic controller at the Pentagon Heliport. "The increase in size and utility of the fire station improves the fire department's ability to respond to an emergency."

According to Yarbrow, the amount of helicopter traffic experienced at the Pentagon Heliport varies greatly depending on the state of affairs in the Department of Defense. "We can have anywhere from 25 to 100 helicopters per week during a heightened state of awareness in the military," Yarbrow said. The Pentagon Heliport is a joint usage facility, fielding air traffic from all branches of military service and the National Guard.

The old 820-square-foot control tower was abated of hazardous materials and demolished after the new Heliport Fire Station and Control Tower became fully operational. The new structure received a stone aggregate cladding to more closely resemble the exterior of the Pentagon.



From top to bottom, the photo sequence at right shows the construction of the Heliport Fire Station and Control Tower. The new facility is now fully operational.